



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

COST ESTIMATE

June 24, 2003

S. 861

Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation on June 19, 2003*

SUMMARY

S. 861 would establish a new grant program to be carried out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Assuming appropriation of the amounts authorized by the bill, CBO estimates that the federal government would spend about \$5 million in fiscal year 2004 and about \$190 million over the 2004-2008 period to implement the legislation. The remaining \$115 million authorized would be spent after 2008. Enacting S. 861 would not affect revenues or direct spending.

This legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

S. 861 would authorize the appropriation of \$60 million for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008 for competitive grants to eligible states. The grants would be used to finance up to 75 percent of the costs of acquiring land in coastal zone management areas or national estuarine research reserves. (These are undeveloped but vulnerable coastal areas that are protected by NOAA and the states under the Coastal Zone Management Act.) In addition, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million in 2004 for a demonstration project to protect coastal habitat.

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 861 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment). For this estimate, CBO assumes that the full amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated for each year and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for other NOAA grant programs.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	65	60	60	60	60
Estimated Outlays	5	25	40	60	60

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 861 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would authorize grants to states to acquire property to protect certain coastal or estuarine areas. Grantees would be able to allocate a portion of the funds received under the program to qualified local entities to acquire land in cooperation with other organizations. Any costs to state or local governments would be the result of complying with grant conditions.

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